

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00049 081710Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 MC-02 /072 W

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P R 081555Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3614

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

COMNAV ACTS ROTA

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0049

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MO, MR, SP, SS, AG

SUBJECT: SAHARA: ANDERSON APPOINTMENT AND AMERICAN POLICY IN AHARA

REF: MADRID 0077 (DTG 071755Z JAN 76)

1. LOCAL PRESS HAS PICKED UP ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESIDENT'S INTENTION APPOINT AMBASSADOR ANDERSON TO RABAT AND ANALYZES IT AS MEANING CHANGE IN AMERICAN POLICY IN AREA. YESTERDAY'S EL MOUDJAHID DESCRIBED ANDERSON AS PRESIDENT'S MAN OF CONFIDENCE AND SAID HIS COMING SIGNALLED NEW POLICY. THIS MORNING'S ASH-SHAAB CARRIES FRONT-PAGE ITEM IN ITS SAHARA RUBRIQUE HEADED, "AFTER ANDERSON ELECTRONIC ARMS FOR RABAT." TEXT OF ARTICLE FOLLOWS:

"DIRECTLY AFTER APPOINTMENT OF ANDERSON AS AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN RABAT--AND HE IS KNOWN FOR HIS POSITION IN WHITE HOUSE AND HIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH FORD AND KISSINGER AND MILITARY INTERSTS--THE FRUIT OF THIS
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PAGE 02 ALGIER 00049 081710Z

APPOINTMENT BEGAN TO RAIN DOWN ON ROYALIST REGIME IN

RABAT. IN THIS REGARD THE SPANISH NEWSPAPER INFORMACION YESTERDAY REPORTED TWO AMERICAN WARSHIPS UNLOADED NEAR "MEDK" ON THE COAST OF MOROCCO ADVANCED ELECTRONIC ARMAMENTS.THESE MODERN ARMS REQUIRE FOR THEIR USE THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN MILITARY EXPERTS."

2. MEDIA SAYS TWO SHIPS CAME FROM ROTA, SPANISH PORT WHICH IS BASE FOR AMERICAN NUCLEAR SUBMARINES. OBSERVERS ARE ASKING, ACCORDING TO PRESS, ON WHICH FRONT THESE ARMS WILL BE USED CONSIDERING THAT THE ROYALIST AUTHORITIES IN RABAT CLAIM THAT THAT WHICH IS TAKING PLACE IN THE SAHARA IS MERELY A SECURITY OPERATION, WHICH SHOULD NOT REQUIRE ARMS OF THIS SORT. EL MOUDJAHID, WHICH CARRIES STORY TF ELECTRONIC ARMS EVEN MORE PROMINENTLY ON FRONT PAGE, BUT DOES NOT MENTION ANDERSON'S ROLE IN THEIR SUPPLY, CONCLUDES, "AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN MOROCCO NOW INCONTESTABLE. IT IS REINFORCEMENT AND CONSOLIDATION OF THIS PRESENCE THAT NOW ATTACHES WASHINGTON TO ITS RABAT VALETS."

3. PRESS ALSO PUBLISHES SUMMARY OF ARTICLE IN LATEST EDITION OF ALGERIAN-GUIDED WEEKLY, AFRIQUE-ASIE ENTITLED "WHO WANTS WAR?" THRUST OF PIECE IS THAT IF WAR BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO BREAKS OUT, IT WILL NOT BE BECAUSE OF INCIDENT IN DESERT BUT BECAUSE NATO COMPUTERS HAVE DECIDED MOMENT OPPORTUNE TO DEAL BLOW TO THIRD WORLD LEADER WHICH OPPOSES IMPERIALISM IN MAGHREB, MASHRIQ, ANGOLA, OAU, OPEC, AND UN. THEMES OF JOINT AMERICAN-MOROCCAN MILITARY STAFF AT KENITRA, AND OF "TODAY THE SAHARA, TOMORROW TINDOUF," RAISED AGAIN, AND ARTICLE CLAIMS US AND FRENCH SHIPS PATROLLING OFF MOROCCAN COAST AND THAT AIRLIFT SET UP BETWEEN NATO BASES AND MOROCCO.

4. THIS IS MOST SPECIFIC ASSOCIATION WHICH ALGERIAN MEDIA HAVE MADE TO DATE OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND MOROCCAN'S SAHARA EFFORT. ONLY OTHER ITEM OF THIS KIND WAS BRIEF "PRESS REPORT" IN LATE DECEMBER THAT WE HAD DELIVERED 30 M-60 TANKS TO MOROCCANS VIA AIR AT CASABLANCA. WE SEEM TO BE APPROACHING EQUAL STATUS WITH

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ALGIER 00049 081710Z

FRENCH AS GOA MEDIA'S BETE NOIRE ON SAHRA ISSUE.

5. WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW IF ELECTONIC ARMS AND M-60 STORIES MADE UP OUT OF WHOLE CLOTH OR IF THERE HAS BEEN SOME EVENT TO WHICH THEY COULD BE TRACED.PARKER

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